

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) ~~A sense of force imparting type~~An input device comprising:

an outer casing having an opening;

an operating lever having a fulcrum inside the outer casing and being pivotably supported; and

detecting means for detecting an operating state of the operating lever;

~~an actuator for imparting an external force to the operating lever;~~

~~control means for controlling driving of the actuator based on output signals supplied from the detecting means; and~~

~~a monitor for displaying various menus and a current position of the operating lever,~~

wherein the outer casing is provided with a plurality of key switches arranged thereon so as to surround the operating lever, and the key switches are subjected to a surface treatment that gives different surface touches from key to key~~allocated to a plurality of pieces of equipment displayed as an equipment menu on the monitor, so that a selecting operation of equipment from the equipment menu is determined by pressing the key switches.~~

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Currently Amended) ~~A sense of force imparting type~~An input device according to Claim 1, wherein the operating forces required to operate the key switches differ from each other.

4. (Currently Amended) An ~~A sense of force imparting type~~ input device according to Claim 1, wherein operating strokes of the key switches differ from each other.

5. (Currently Amended) An ~~A sense of force imparting type~~ input device according to Claims 1, wherein the key switches are arranged into an annular shape.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~An A sense of force imparting type~~ input device according to Claim 1, wherein the key switches are arranged into the shape of a square frame.

7. (New) An input device according to Claim 1, further comprising:
an actuator for imparting an external force to the operating lever;
control means for controlling driving of the actuator based on output signals supplied from the detecting means; and
a monitor for displaying various menus and a current position of the operating lever,
wherein the key switches are allocated to a plurality of pieces of equipment displayed as an equipment menu on the monitor, so that a selecting operation of equipment from the equipment menu is determined by pressing the key switches.

8. (New) An input device according to Claim 1, wherein surfaces of the key switches are provided with a mirror finish, a number of projections, fine irregularities formed by etching, and a number of lines formed by knurling.